



The CHOW Project

Community Health Outreach Work to Prevent AIDS

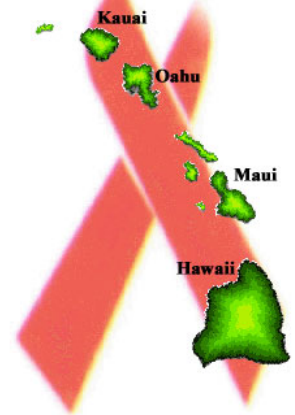
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Community Health Outreach Work to Prevent AIDS

Syringe Exchange Program



Harm Reduction

The CHOW Project adopts a Harm Reduction philosophy in serving our clients. Harm Reduction is a non-judgmental, inclusive and pragmatic approach to minimize harms that accompany the abuse of both licit and illicit substances. It begins with accepting people and their situations where they are and providing options and support to facilitate a healthier lifestyle.

Harm reduction is client-driven and avails itself of an entire spectrum of strategies, tailoring them to each individual's situation, instead of a zero-tolerance strategy, where anything short of abstinence is considered failure. It may involve using fewer drugs or using drugs less often. It may include abstinence in certain situations or abstinence in all situations.

The Chow Project

The Community Health Outreach Work to Prevent AIDS Project (CHOW Project) was established in 1989 and became a not-for-profit organization in 1999. Our mission is to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS and other bloodborne pathogens among high-risk drug users, especially injection drug users (IDUs) in the State of Hawaii. We are dedicated to providing client-centered risk reduction services, health education and referrals.

“...there is conclusive scientific evidence that syringe exchange programs, as part of a comprehensive HIV prevention strategy, are an effective public health intervention that reduces the transmission of HIV and does not encourage the use of illegal drugs.”

-- U.S. Surgeon General Dr. David
Satcher, Department of Health and
Human Services

Services

The CHOW Project provides a range of outreach and prevention services for high-risk drug users which include:

- A statewide one-for-one Syringe Exchange Program
- Referrals to drug treatment centers
- Community Outreach
- HIV Counseling and Testing
- Health education and information
- Peer education program
- Referrals to other social and medical services

Syringe Exchange Program

- ◆ The Syringe Exchange Program **helps protect our ENTIRE community** from the spread of HIV and other bloodborne diseases.
 - ◆ Department of Health statistics show that Hawaii has **far fewer AIDS cases** related to drug injection than the national average.
 - ◆ Definitive research shows Syringe Exchange Programs **are highly effective at preventing** the spread of HIV.¹
 - ◆ The Syringe Exchange Program **safely disposes** of used needles.
 - ◆ The Syringe Exchange Program provides a **vital link** to drug treatment programs.
 - ◆ Six government reports concur that access to **sterile syringes does not increase drug use**.²
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¹ Hurly SF. *Effectiveness of needle-exchange programmes for prevention of HIV infection*. Lancet. 1997; 349:1797.

Paone D. Presented at New York Statewide HIV Conference, February 1997.

Des Jarlais DC, Marmor M, Paone D, et al. *HIV incidence among injecting drug users in New York City syringe-exchange programmes*. Lancet. 1996; 348:987-991.

² Normand J, Vlahov D, Moses LE, eds. *Preventing HIV Transmission: The Role of Sterile Needles and Bleach*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press; 1995:224-226, 248-250.

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For more information contact the CHOW Project at:

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